

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

~~Amend the paragraph after the title:~~

PR 8-3-05
Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120 and/or 35 U.S.C. 119(e), Applicants hereby claim ^{-this application} [priority from presently copending] the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.60/313,604 entitled "MECHANICAL FASTENING SYSTEM HAVING ORTHOGONALLY ORIENTED ENGAGEMENT MEMBERS" and filed on August 20, 2001, in the names of Jason R. Cole, Denise R. Couture, Yvette L. Hammonds, Valerie R. Kurbec, Allan J. Krueger, Jason J. Manders, Shelley R. Rasmussen, David C. Strandberg, William G. Stratton, Manuel A. Torres, Jennifer A. Trottier, and Robert J. Waldron (Docket No. 16,508).

Amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 3,

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PR 3-25-04
The fastening system may include: ~~a pair of wings including selectively releasable, interengaging fasteners such that the wings are adapted to be temporarily mechanically engaged on the topsheet side of the article and then reconfigured to hold the article (e.g., sanitary napkin) to an undergarment~~ a personal care article having: a top surface defining a topsheet side, a bottom surface defining a backsheet side, garment attachment adhesive applied to the bottom surface, a peel strip covering the garment attachment adhesive as well as (A) a first wing extending from a first longitudinal edge of sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from a second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end; (B) selectively releasable, interengaging fasteners including: (i) a first fastener component forming at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality engagement members; and (ii) a cooperating fastener component forming at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing such that the wings are adapted to be temporarily mechanically engaged on the topsheet side of the article and then reconfigured to hold the article to an undergarment. The system further includes the following steps: overlapping and temporarily interengaging the wings on the top surface of the article while the peel strip protecting the garment adhesive is removed; positioning the article in an undergarment and securing the article to the undergarment utilizing the garment adhesive; and disengaging the wings and re-engaging the wings around the undergarment to further secure the article to the undergarment. The fastening system further includes garment adhesive (covered by a peel strip) on the garment facing side of the article. In an embodiment of the invention, the fastening system may further include a fastener component including a plurality of engagement members configured so that it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment a fabric undergarment positioned between the backsheet side and the wings.

Amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 26 as follows:

C 62
 FIGS. 1A-1E are illustrations of an exemplary sanitary napkin with fasteners 36 in the form of wings or flaps. At least one first fastener component 70 is attached to the wing 36 and at least one cooperating fastener component 72 is attached to the opposite wing 36. In some embodiments of the invention, the first fastener component 70 and the cooperating fastener component 72 may be attached to each wing such that the wings may be fastened without concern for overlapping the wings in any particular order. In other yet embodiments, the wing may be formed partially or entirely of the cooperating fastener component 72 as shown by, for example, FIGS. 1B, 1D, 1D' and 1E. FIG. 1C is an illustration of the sanitary napkin with its wings 36 or flaps secured around an undergarment or panty ³⁻¹⁵⁻⁰⁴ "P". The arrows labeled "A" generally represent the attachment direction. The arrows labeled "O" generally represent the direction that is orthogonal to the attachment direction. It should be understood that this orthogonal direction is thought to be generally or substantially along or in the plane of the article although in some specific cases, it includes a minor Z-direction component.

Amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 24 as follows:

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 The following is a brief description of the orientation direction with respect to the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 and the lateral cross-wise direction depicted in FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'. In one exemplary sanitary napkin, the orienting orientation of the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component in the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the cross-machine direction or the lateral cross-direction 24 shown in FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'. Thus, for that sanitary napkin, the orienting orientation of the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component generally orthogonal to the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the machine direction or the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 shown in FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'.

Amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 16 as follows:

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 An example of a suitable micro-hook material is distributed under the designations VELCRO HTH 829 and VELCRO HTH 851 and is available from VELCRO U.S.A., Inc., a business having offices in Manchester, New Hampshire. VELCRO HTH 851 micro-hook material is shown in photomicrographs in FIGS. 2A and 2B. FIG. 2A is a top view (linear magnification of 45X) of the micro-hook material showing an example of the relative distribution of individual engagement members or elements. FIG. 2B is a perspective view (linear magnification of 50X) showing an

example of the angled engagement members or hook elements. The micro-hook material can have hooks in the shape of angled hook elements, and can be configured with a hook density of about 264 hooks per square centimeter (about 1700 hooks per square inch); a hook height which is within the range of about 0.030 - 0.063 cm (about 0.012 - 0.025 inch); and a hook width which is within the range of about 0.007 to 0.022 cm (about 0.003 to 0.009 inch). The hook elements are molded onto a base layer substrate having a thickness of about 0.0076 - 0.008 cm (about 0.003 - 0.0035 inch), and the member of hook material has a Gurley stiffness of about 12 mgf (about 12 Gurley units). Other suitable hook materials can include VELCRO HTH 858 [, VELCRO HTH 851] and VELCRO HTH 863 hook materials.

Amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 8 as follows:

bb In the various aspects and configurations of the invention, the loop material can be provided by a nonwoven, woven or knit fabric. For example, a suitable loop material fabric can be composed of a 2 bar, warp knit fabric of the type available from Guilford Mills, Inc., Greensboro, North Carolina under the trade designation #34285, as well as other types of knit fabrics. FIG. 3 is a photomicrograph depicting an exemplary cooperating fastener member in the form of the loop material fabric available from Guilford Mills, Inc. Suitable loop materials are also available from the 3M Company, which has distributed a nylon woven loop under their SCOTCHMATE brand. The 3M Company has also distributed a linerless loop web with adhesive on the backside of the web, and 3M knitted loop tape.

Amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 16 as follows:

bb The loop material may also include a nonwoven fabric having continuous bonded areas defining a plurality of discrete unbonded areas. The fibers or filaments within the discrete unbonded areas of the fabric are dimensionally stabilized by the continuous bonded areas that encircle or surround each unbonded area, such that no support or backing layer of film or adhesive is required. The unbonded areas are specifically designed to afford spaces between fibers or filaments within the unbonded area that remain sufficiently open or large to receive and engage hook elements of the complementary hook material. In particular, a pattern-unbonded nonwoven fabric or web may include a spunbond nonwoven web formed of single component or multi-component melt-spun filaments. At least one surface of the nonwoven fabric can include a plurality of discrete, unbonded areas surrounded or encircled by continuous bonded areas. The continuous bonded areas dimensionally stabilize the fibers or filaments forming the nonwoven web by bonding or fusing together the portions of the fibers or filaments that extend outside of the unbonded areas

into the bonded areas, while leaving the fibers or filaments within the unbonded areas substantially free of bonding or fusing. The degree of bonding or fusing within the bonding areas desirably is sufficient to render the nonwoven web non-fibrous within the bonded areas, leaving the fibers or filaments within the unbonded areas to act as "loops" for receiving and engaging hook elements. Examples of suitable point-unbonded fabrics are described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 754,419 No. 5,858,515 entitled PATTERN UNBONDED NONWOVEN WEB AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME, by T. J. Stokes et al., and filed December 17, 1996 (attorney docket No. 12,232); the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in a manner that is consistent herewith. FIG. 4 is a photomicrograph (linear magnification 17X) depicting an exemplary cooperating fastener member in the form of a pattern unbonded nonwoven web generally as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,858,515. As is evident from the photomicrographs, a plurality of discrete, unbonded areas that are adapted to engage the engagement members are surrounded or encircled by continuous bonded areas.
